



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

April 10, 2008

For immediate release

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EPC TO CONTINUE MEETING ON RECREATIONAL STREAM USES APRIL 16

MEDIA CONTACT: Karen Grimes at (515) 281-5135 or karen.grimes@dnr.iowa.gov

DES MOINES – The Environmental Protection Commission will continue their regular monthly meeting on April 16 in Des Moines.

Commissioners met April 8 in Carroll, but ran out of time to make decisions on 295 recreational stream use designations. If approved, the rule would reclassify 295 stream and river sections, granting protection for children's recreational use to 39 of them and protecting 241 for secondary contact such as wading, fishing, trapping or boating. The proposal would protect fish and aquatic life in all of the stream sections under consideration.

The meeting will begin at 1 p.m. in the third floor conference room of the Wallace State Office Building, 502 East Ninth Street.

Commissioners will not be taking public comments, since they accepted comments on the same topic at their regular meeting. However, the public is welcome to attend or call into the meeting.

To attend via conference call, dial (866) 685-1580 shortly before 1 p.m. Follow the prompts, entering the conference code of 5152818383, followed by the pound (#) sign. Call Jerah Gallinger at (515) 313-8909 if you have problems with access.

The proposed stream uses are available on the DNR Web site at www.iowadnr.com/water/uaa.html

Look for more information about the agenda on the DNR Web site under Commissions and Boards at www.iowadnr.gov.

The members of the commission are David Petty, chair, Eldora; Charlotte Hubbell, vice chair, Des Moines; Suzanne Morrow, secretary, Storm Lake; Henry Marquard, Muscatine; Ralph Klemme, LeMars; Susan Heathcote, Des Moines; and Paul Johnson, Decorah. The director of the DNR is Richard Leopold.

Writer: Karen Grimes

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DNR ASKS FOR DARLING RESIDENTS' IDEAS AT MAY 1 MEETING

MEDIA CONTACT: Steve Waters, SE Iowa District Fisheries Supervisor, at (319) 694-2430 or Mike McGhee, DNR Lake Restoration, at (515) 281-6281.

BRIGHTON — As improvements continue at Lake Darling, local residents are invited to a meeting to discuss their ideas and visions for the lake.

The May 1 meeting at Brighton City Hall, 100 East Washington St., will begin at 6 p.m. The DNR is hosting the meeting to gather the community's input for the next steps in improving Lake Darling.

As the lake level is drawn down this summer to repair the spillway, there is an opportunity to do other restoration work in the lake and make improvements to Lake Darling State Park. The DNR will also discuss the results of a recent watershed and lake assessment conducted by Iowa State University, which points out successes and areas that still need help.

"We've decreased the amount of sediment reaching the lake by 60 percent through the Lake Darling Watershed Project, and that's been a great help to the lake," said Mike McGhee, DNR Lake Restoration. "However, the ISU study shows that we still have work to do when it comes to nutrients reaching the lake. We'd like to hear residents' ideas on ways to improve the watershed and the lake."

Following the meeting, the DNR is encouraging local residents to consider joining the Lake Restoration Advisory Council. The council, which could have five to 15 members,

will work with DNR technical staff to discuss restoration options and develop a lake management plan.

For more information about the meeting, contact the Southeast District Fisheries office at Lake Darling at (319) 694-2430.

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CAUTION URGED FOR OUTDOOR WOOD-FIRED BOILERS

MEDIA CONTACT: Christine Paulson, Environmental Specialist Senior, (515) 242-5154

DES MOINES — The high cost of petroleum-based fuels for home heating has Iowans looking at alternative sources. In both rural and residential areas, some Iowans have purchased or are considering outdoor wood-fired boilers (OWBs) or furnaces. DNR officials caution against burning any wood other than untreated, well-seasoned wood and advise that OWBs can be more polluting and less efficient than other home heating devices.

“Unlike residential wood burning stoves, OWBs are not required to meet federal emission standards,” says Christine Paulson, an air specialist with the DNR Air Quality Bureau. “We’ve received a number of complaints about the OWBs, and our investigations have revealed that many of the concerns raised are valid. Because of the large fireboxes on the units, some people have jumped to the conclusion that anything can be burned in them.”

OWBs are free-standing wood burning devices that heat water, which is then pumped to one or more structures to provide heat. They look like a small shed with a short smokestack on top. They may be used to heat homes and outbuildings, produce domestic hot water, heat hot tubs or provide heat to agricultural operations. OWBs are also called Outdoor Wood-fired Hydronic Heaters (OWHH).

Household garbage and debris contain chemicals that are illegal to burn in such devices without an air permit. Burning such items releases toxic air pollutants, some of which are carcinogens.

“We had a case recently where someone was burning railroad ties in his OWB,” adds Paulson. “Railroad ties are treated with creosote, a probable carcinogen. Just handling railroad ties has been shown to cause skin rash and irritation. Imagine what it can be when vaporized and drawn deep into the lungs.”

Even wood smoke from well seasoned hardwood contains fine particle pollution, carbon monoxide, and other pollutants, so it is important to release it through a stack well above roof lines so that children, people with lung and heart disease, and other sensitive groups are not exposed to it.

Before buying an OWB, the DNR asks you to consider the possible health and environmental impact to your family, neighbors, pets and livestock, and to contact your county health department or city hall to see if OWBs are allowed.

“We encourage consumers to choose the cleanest, most efficient models available, preferably EPA-certified units. Then operate and maintain the unit, whether it is new or one of the older models, according to manufacturers’ instructions,” emphasizes Paulson.

The DNR also recommends that OWB operators place the unit at least 500 feet from an adjoining property line, keep the doors of the unit closed unless loading or stoking the live fire, and install a vertical, unobstructed stack that is at least 5 feet taller than the roof line of nearby structures and residences. Never use propellants to start a fire and do not store them near an OWB. A child in Iowa recently died from burns linked to a propellant stored near an operating OWB.

A DNR OWB Fact Sheet with more information is available at www.iowadnr.gov/air/. Information on EPA's OWB program, including information on EPA-certified models, is available at <http://www.epa.gov/woodheaters/>.

Questions or complaints regarding specific OWB or other wood heaters should be directed to appropriate DNR field offices. A map and contact information for the six DNR field offices is available at <http://www.iowadnr.gov/fo/fomap.html> or call (515) 242-5100. Those with questions or concerns within Polk County should call (515) 286-3351; or within Linn County call (319) 892-6000. Permit questions may be directed to the DNR Air Quality Bureau permit hotline at 1-877-247-4692.

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DNR ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

MEDIA CONTACT: Jessie Brown at (515) 281-5131.

DES MOINES — The DNR has taken the following enforcement actions. The following are only briefs; please contact Jessie Brown of the DNR for more information at (515) 281-5131. The orders were taken in February and March 2008 unless otherwise noted.

Enforcement actions, including copies of the original orders and contact information, are available on the DNR’s Web site at www.iowadnr.gov/legal/eactions.html. The Web listing offers orders first taken in 2007 or 2008 (amendments to orders issued prior to 2007 are not listed).

Administrative Orders

Responsible parties have 30 days to appeal the order or 60 days to pay the penalty.

Black Hawk County

- The owners of lots 6 through 14 in the Ridges Seventh Addition in Cedar Falls were issued an administrative order to correct the regulatory flood elevation in their development. The order comes after DNR staff reviewed a hydraulic analysis of Lakewood Hills Dam and concluded that the regulatory flood elevation for property located downstream of the dam should be modified to a lower elevation. The modifications affect any future construction. This order was issued in October 2007.

Cass County

- The City of Wiota was issued an emergency administrative order to make improvements to its public water supply, maintain treatment standards, comply with reporting requirements and to perform regular water monitoring. The order is in regard to acute violations of the maximum contaminant level (MCL) for *e. Coli* bacteria and fecal coliforms in July and August 2007. This order was issued in August 2007.

Mahaska County

- Leland Van Kooten and Darin Van Kooten, of Leighton, were issued an administrative order to properly close a confinement operation, and to remove and properly land-apply all manure from confinement buildings and storage lagoons. The Van Kootens were also ordered to pay a \$5,500 penalty. The order is in regard to proper closure procedures for confinement sites no longer in operation. The order was issued in October 2007.

Montgomery, Mills and Carroll Counties

- Richard Steen, of Emerson, and Jeff Behrens, of Glidden, were issued an administrative order to pay an \$8,000 penalty and submit proof they no longer own or operate the facility in question, or submit their plans for manure controls. The order is in regard to a manure discharge from an open cattle feedlot in Montgomery County.

Polk County

- Anthony Herman, dba Mighty Good Used Cars, of Polk City, was issued an administrative order to revise and implement his facility's pollution prevention plan to prevent future discharge of contaminants, and to pay a \$7,500 penalty. The order is in regard to storm water discharge violations. Herman has appealed the order.

Consent Orders

A consent order is issued as an alternative to issuing an administrative order. A consent order indicates that the DNR has voluntarily entered into a legally enforceable agreement with the other party.

Benton County

- Xethanol Biofuels, LLC, of Blairstown, agreed in a consent order to pay a \$10,000 penalty. The consent order is in regard to air quality monitoring and reporting violations at its Blairstown facility.

O'Brien County

- Rural Water System Number 1, of Granville, agreed in a consent order to obtain all appropriate construction permits, meet all legal control and separation distance requirements, and to pay an \$8,000 penalty.

Palo Alto County

- Roger McEwen, of Cylinder, agreed in a consent order to never engage in an illegal discharge to a water of the state in the future, and to pay a \$10,000 penalty. The consent order is in regard to wastewater discharges from a truck wash in Palo Alto County.

Story, Taylor Counties

- Randy Kennedy, dba R K Construction and Demolition, of Slater, agreed in a consent order to submit proof of completing an asbestos course and pay a \$2,000 penalty. The consent order is in regard to air quality violations at a demolition project in Bedford.

Union County

- Condev, Inc. and Curtis and Kelly Tracy, all of Creston, agreed in a consent order to remove all liquid and manure solids from a farm pond and properly land-apply the manure, repair the piping system that carries manure from confinement buildings to the storage lagoon, hire an engineer to evaluate a manure storage basin, and pay a \$10,000 penalty. The consent order is in regard to animal feeding operation violations at a site in Union County.

Woodbury County

- Dial – WC Estates, LLC, of Omaha, agreed in a consent order to comply with all storm water permit requirements and to pay an \$8,000 penalty. The consent order is in regard to sediment control violations at a development site known as Whispering Creek Estates in Sioux City.
- Woodbury County and Prairie Hills Public Water Supply, of Sioux City, agreed in a consent order to retain a certified operator, sample the public water supply at least once per month for contaminants as required, provide public notice, and pay a \$6,450 penalty. The consent order is in regard to drinking water supply violations at the Prairie Hills site in Sioux City.

Writer: Jessie Brown